

# Arizona's Response to the World Refugee Crisis



## The Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*



# What does it mean to be a refugee?

What would you do right now if bombs were falling around you?

What would you do if people of your faith or ethnic group were being singled out, tortured, and slaughtered?





# What does it mean to be a refugee?

If you had  
15 minutes to  
evacuate your  
home...  
what would  
you take ?





# If you became a refugee...

Where would you go?

Who would help you?

If you couldn't return home - would you hope that someone would help you?





# When you are a refugee...



how long should it take to get that help?



22.5 million refugees worldwide





80% are women and children





70% live at least 10 years in camps





# Conditions are slow to improve

Millions of refugees will never be able to return to their countries of origin and languish in make-shift camps for decades.





# Traditional Resettlement Countries



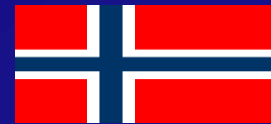
Australia



New Zealand



Canada



Norway



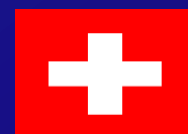
Denmark



Sweden



Finland



Switzerland



Netherlands



United States



# Durable Solutions

The United Nations identifies three durable solutions for refugees:

- Voluntary Repatriation to their Home Country
- Integration into their Country of First Asylum
- Resettlement to a Third Country

What percentage of the world's refugees are resettled to a third country?





# Less than 1%

Less than one percent of the world's refugees ever have the opportunity to find safety and security by being resettled in another country.





# The 1951 UN Convention

“The 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees” defines who is a refugee, their rights, and the legal obligations of states - including non-refoulement.





# The 1967 Protocol

“The 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees” broadened how a refugee is defined by removing geographic boundaries and including qualifying events to those occurring since January 1, 1951.





# The Refugee Act of 1980

By 1979, the amassing humanitarian atrocities and growing refugee problem in Southeast Asia resulted in drafting the Refugee Act of 1980.





# The Refugee Act of 1980



The Refugee Act of 1980 codified the United States' historic policy of aiding individuals fleeing persecution from their homelands.



# The Refugee Act of 1980

A refugee is primarily defined as a person who has fled his or her home country and is unable or unwilling to return, owing to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Membership in a social group
- Political opinion



# The Refugee Act of 1980

Besides refugees, other eligible beneficiaries under the Refugee Act are:

- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Victims of a Severe Form of Trafficking
- Certain Amerasians
- SLVs from Afghanistan and Iraq
- Others as authorized



# The Refugee Act of 1980

The following are not required conditions for admission to the United States as a refugee:

- Demonstrate ability to achieve economic self-sufficiency
- Integration potential





# The Refugee Act of 1980

Refugees are afforded the same rights as legal residents in the U.S. and are eligible to:

- Apply for Lawful Permanent Resident Status after twelve months
- Seek naturalization after five years





# Key Federal Agencies

Three federal agencies play key roles in the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.





# U.S. Refugee Status Determination

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has statutory authority to determine which applicants meet the requirements for refugee status and are admissible to the United States under U.S. law.





# U.S Refugee Admissions Process

The U.S. Department of State coordinates resettlement policy, overseas processing, cultural orientation, transportation to the U.S., and the Reception & Placement program for newly arrived refugees.





# U.S. Domestic Refugee Resettlement

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement is responsible for the domestic program of refugee resettlement services - including cash and medical assistance and a broad range of social services.





# U.S. Worldwide Processing Priorities

- P-1 Cases identified and referred by UNHCR, a U.S. Embassy, or a designated NGO
- P-2 Groups of special concern identified by the U.S. Department of State
- P-3 Family reunification cases of close relatives



# U.S. Refugee Admissions Process

The President annually determines refugee admission levels to the U.S. by world region.

FFY 2018 (Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018)

Africa	19,000
East Asia	5,000
Europe and Central Asia	2,000
Latin America/Caribbean	1,500
Near East/South Asia	17,500
Total	45,000



# U.S. Refugee Resettlement



Until the mid-1990's, at least three-quarters of refugees coming to the U.S. were from the former Soviet Union and Southeast Asia.



# U.S. Refugee Resettlement



Since the end of the Cold War the political landscape has changed dramatically.



# U.S. Refugee Resettlement

Sporadic internal conflicts, ethnic tensions, and political rivalries have increased globally and arriving refugees reflect those changes.

## SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

### Families Fleeing Violence

About 11 million Syrians are on the run, including some 4.8 million who have been forced to seek safety in neighboring countries. Inside Syria, more than 6.3 million people are displaced and 13.5 million are still in need of humanitarian assistance.



TURKEY 2,764,500

SYRIA  
6,325,978 million people  
internally displaced

IRAQ  
228,894



# Some Primary Countries of Refugees' Origins

## DR Congo



## Afghanistan



## Somalia



## Cuba



## Iraq



## Syria





# U.S. Refugee Admissions

Refugees undergo a thorough interview, extensive background and security checks, and a medical examination prior to U.S. admission.





# U.S. Refugee Admissions

The process includes the involvement of:

- The National Counterterrorism Center
- The FBI's Terrorist Screening Center
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- The U.S. Department of Defense
- Other agencies

Most of the details of the security checks are classified.



# U.S. Refugee Resettlement

Nine national Resettlement Agencies (RAs) provide *Reception & Placement* (R&P) services to refugees under cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State.





# U.S. Refugee Resettlement

Six of these national RAs have local refugee resettlement affiliates in Arizona.





# Refugees in Arizona

## Phoenix Refugee Resettlement Agencies



Catholic Charities Community Services



The International Rescue Committee



Refugee Focus (LSS-SW)



Arizona Immigrant & Refugee Services

# Refugees in Arizona

## Tucson Refugee Resettlement Agencies



Catholic Community Services



The International Rescue Committee



Refugee Focus (LSS-SW)



# Refugees in Arizona

The local Resettlement Agencies welcome refugees upon arrival and provide them essential services during their first 30 days in the U.S. These services link to longer-term services.



U.S. a Place of Miracles for Somali Refugees

By RACHEL L. SWARNS

**TUCSON** - The white wooden door swung open and the dazed African villagers stepped into their new home. It was a modest apartment

# Initial Services

The U.S. Department of State/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) R&P funds support refugees with such transitional needs as:

- Housing and essential furnishings
- Food, clothing and pocket money
- Community orientation
- Social/employment service referrals



# Initial Services

Refugees receive a domestic medical screening within 30-60 days of arrival in the U.S.





# Initial Services

A comprehensive plan is developed to help guide refugee individuals and families towards self-sufficiency - including linkage to longer-term services and support.





# Refugees in Arizona

In order for states to receive U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funds, states must:

- Develop a State Plan
- Identify a State Refugee Coordinator.



# Refugees in Arizona

The State Plan reflects the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program purpose, which is to effectively resettle refugees and assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the U.S.



# Refugees in Arizona

The State Refugee Coordinator has the responsibility and authority to coordinate public and private resources in refugee resettlement.



# Refugees in Arizona

The Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program is the state's refugee program, and administers 100 percent federally funded benefits and services to support refugees' self-sufficiency and successful resettlement.





# Refugees in Arizona

State administered refugee resettlement assistance funds must focus on employment-related services, English language training (in non-work hours where possible), and case management services.



# Transitional Services

Most federal refugee benefits may be provided for up to five years after arrival in the U.S.

Many services must be provided on a priority basis, with first priority given to newly arrived refugees receiving cash assistance.



# Refugee Resettlement Services

- Unaccompanied Refugee Minors
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Refugee Domestic Medical Examinations
- Refugee Health Promotion

# Refugee Resettlement Services

- Employment Services
- Case Management
- English Language Training
- Services to Older Refugees
- Refugee School Support (K-12)





# Refugee Resettlement Services

- Arizona Refugee Resettlement VISTA Project



# Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) are children without a parent or guardian who are identified overseas by the U.S. Department of State as eligible for U.S. resettlement. These children are placed in the ORR-administered URM program (URMP).



# Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act extends URMP eligibility to certain special immigrant juveniles (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) and to unaccompanied minors with U visas.



# Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program

Tailored resettlement and adjustment services help URM's to blend their cultural identity with their new American environment, while pursuing educational goals and preparing for independence.





# Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program

Legal responsibility is established under state law so that URM's have the full range of assistance, care and services as all foster children in the state.



# Refugees in Arizona

...since 2005 represent more than 60 languages

*Kirundi* بهاسا مالايو کشميري हन् दी  
Українська Română af Soomaali  
فارسی  
தமிழ்  
Ўзбек Türkçe العربية Thuɔŋjäŋ كَأَشُر  
Shqip भो जपु री Ikinyarwanda  
ترکمن Русский  
Kreyòl ayisyen Tiếng Việt BOSANSKI Kikongo  
Afaan Oromo यत्तघी ने पा ली

...and more than 50 countries of origin.



# Refugees in Arizona

...and

Has become home to over  
80,000 refugees since 1978.



# FFY 2017 Arrivals Top Five Countries

County	Country	Total	Grand Total
Maricopa	DRC	555	1,746
	Cuba	430	
	Iraq	343	
	Afghanistan	215	
	Syria	203	
Pima	DRC	225	516
	Somalia	125	
	Syria	84	
	Iraq	52	
	Ethiopia	30	



# FFY 2017 Arrivals

Maricopa	2,317
Pima	<u>656</u>
	2,973